



Michael McInnes, General Manager

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2431 East Highway 101
Post Office Box 1090
Port Angeles, WA 98362

(360) 452-9771
FAX 452-9338

Commissioners
William McCrorie, District No. 1
Hugh Haffner, District No. 2
Ted Simpson, District No. 3

March 28, 2000

Department of the Army
Walla Walla District Corps of Engineers
Attention: Lower Snake River Study
201 North Third Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

RE: SALMON RECOVERY STUDIES

Dear Sir or Madam:

As the General Manager of Clallam County PUD, I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the recent studies regarding salmon recovery. This issue is extremely important to me and the PUD's customers because the electrical energy generated in the federal hydro system has become an integral and vital part of lives and businesses here in Clallam County.

Before the recent public meetings began, the region was assured that the process would be fair and a place for local citizens to gather information and provide comment on serious, complex issues. It was generally expected that the process was not to be a referendum on breaching the four lower Snake River dams. However, reports indicate that the hearings were packed by those whose goal is to breach the dams. This raises serious questions about the value and integrity of the hearings themselves. It is important that the focus does not shift to the number of comments and away from science and good public policy.

A reasonable and valid process for decision making will include the scientific evidence that West Coast salmon runs are affected by much more than the dams in the rivers. Other habitat and harvest factors must be considered. The Cumulative Risk Initiative indicates that it is unlikely any of the alternatives enacted alone will recover the fish populations. Breaching dams is not the answer.

The impending electrical energy shortfall in the northwest is another reason for not removing the dams. We will need an energy strategy that protects the total environment. It would be imprudent to overlook the pollution implications of removing the dams and replacing the generation with gas fired units and introducing more truck and rail traffic to transport regional commodities.

MARGARET S. KINNEY
704 WELLINGTON ST
WALLA WALLA, WA 99362

March 23, 2000

Department of the Army
Walla Walla District Corps of Engineers
Attention: Lower Snake River Study
201 North Third Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

Dear Sir or Madam:

As a resident of the Pacific Northwest, I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the recent studies regarding salmon recovery and the Federal Caucus public comment process. This issue is extremely important to me because my life and the lives of others that live in the Pacific Northwest are built around our remarkable rivers. The decisions that will be made over the next few months and years will directly affect me, my family and future generations.

I feel compelled to first comment on the public process. Many have felt that the process we were engaged in over the past couple of months was extremely unfair and portrayed as some sort of game or circus. Before the public meetings began, the region was assured that the process would be fair, a place for the public to gather information and provide comment on serious, complex issues, and that the process was NOT a referendum on the four lower Snake River dams. Yet it is clear that efforts to pack the hearings by those who want to breach the dams raises serious questions about the value and integrity of the hearings themselves.

This process is, or should be, about finding common sense solutions to our complex natural resource problems – including salmon. It is not about finding the rationale to do risky, drastic and unproven experiments like breaching dams or requiring massive flow augmentation.

I applaud the Federal Caucus for beginning to turn the debate away from win-lose solutions and dams versus fish to meaningful dialog that will result in a comprehensive recovery plan. The All-H Paper reminds us that there are a number of factors affecting our salmon resource and it will take addressing all of these to find a responsible solution. The All-H Paper begins to define goals and performance standards. It makes people accountable for their decisions and actions. The goals need work but at least they are a start. Ultimately, our goals need to be biologically based, measurable and balanced standards that are developed and applied across all stages of the life cycle. I don't think